

Notice of Public Meeting

San Diego River Conservancy

A public meeting of the Governing Board of
The San Diego River Conservancy
will be held Friday,

May 11, 2007
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Meeting Location

State of California – Downtown Office Building
1350 Front Street, Suite 3024
San Diego, California 92101

Tele-Conference Location SACRAMENTO: 1416 Ninth Street, Resources
Agency Conference Room 1305 Sacramento, CA 95814

916-657-4105

The public is welcome to attend at either location.

Contact: Michael Nelson
(619) 645-3183

Meeting Agenda

1. Inspect the San Diego River Conservancy's New Office

Visit the Conservancy's Suite (3024) and grab a cup of coffee, before proceeding to the Auditorium B-109 for the formal meeting.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes

4. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged.

5. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

6. Executive Officer's Report

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officers Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Legislative Status Report

- Proposed 2007/2008 Budget
- Senate Bill (Kehoe) No.419

2007 Work Plan Update

- Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (site of former Caltrans Building)
- San Diego Foundation
- Land Conservation Opportunity / Santee
- Hydrology Study
- Wetland Recovery Project / Wildlife Conservation Board Tour

7. Deputy Attorney Generals Report

8. Canyonlands - Presentation

Assembly Member Lori Saldana; Andrew Spurlock , Eric Bowlby,

9. Review Proposition 13 and 40 Grants – Financial Report

10. Event Marketing /Public Out Reach

Marketing Opportunities / Upcoming events

11. Adjournment

Accessibility

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Michael Nelson at 619-794-2038

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board will consider adoption of the March 2, 2007 public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the March 2, 2007 Board Meeting are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of March 2, 2007 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval May 11, 2007)

Chairperson Donna Frye called the March 2, 2007 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:

Donna Frye, Chair (City Council of San Diego)
Anne Haddad (Public at Large, Appointed by Governor)
Karen Scarborough (Secretary of Resources Designee)
Jim Peugh (Public at Large, Appointed by Senate)
Andrew Poat (Public at Large, Appointed by Governor)
Michael McCann (San Diego Regional Water Quality Board Designee)
Vince Brown (Deputy Director of Finance)
John Donnelly (Wildlife Conservation Board Designee)

Staff Members Present:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson, Deputy Attorney General
Ann Van Leer, Consultant, San Diego River Conservancy

Absent:

Jerry Sanders (Mayor, City of San Diego)
Toni Atkins (Public at Large, Appointed by General Assembly)

Mike Nelson announced that Norm Roberts submitted his resignation to the Governor because he was unable to attend meetings on Friday meeting dates. He also introduced the selection of Flenell Owens, as the new Administrative Services Manager for the Conservancy. Mr. Owens, who was in attendance, is a veteran of the United States Navy and a graduate of San Diego State University with a degree in Business Administration. He will begin on March 19, 2007. The Chair extended a welcome to Flenell from the Board.

2. Approval of Minutes

Andrew Poat made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Jim Peugh. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged.

There were no public comments

Mike Nelson introduced Matt Rahn, Director of San Diego State University's Field Station Program and his assistant Kelsey.

Chairperson Frye asked others to introduce themselves. The following people were also in attendance:

**Mark Weston (General Manager of Helix Water District)
Chuck Muse (President, Board of Directors, Helix Water District)
Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League)
Rob Hutsel (San Diego River Park Foundation)
Steve Hill (Councilmember Toni Aitkin's office)**

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

(No comments)

5. Executive Officer's Report

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officers Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

(a) Office Location

Mike Nelson announced that San Diego River Conservancy new office was open for business and that the new address was:

**San Diego River Conservancy
1350 Front St. Suite 3024
San Diego CA, 92101**

**The Coastal Conservancy has successfully established data and telephone connections. His new e-mail address is:
mnelson@sdrc.ca.gov.**

The Executive Officer also announced that the auditorium in the basement would be available as an alternate site for meetings of the Board of Directors.

Chairperson Frye requested that an updated roster of the governing board be made available.

(b) Recruitment of Staff

Mike Nelson expressed his appreciation to Karen Scarborough for the assistance her staff has provided the Conservancy during the transition, as well as the efforts of the Coastal Conservancy's during the staff recruitment.

(c) Executive Officer Activities

2007 Work Plan Update

Mike Nelson first discussed the 2007 Work Plan that was approved at the January 19, 2007 Board Meeting. He stated his intention to provide updates at each meeting

He mentioned that at the last meeting following a discussion of regarding the lack of success the Conservancy had with the Public Works Board, Anne Sheehan and Karen Scarborough had encouraged him to strengthen its relationship with its partners and cultivate new ones in its efforts to raise the Conservancy's profile and establish a track record. He stated that he was proud that in attendance were its longstanding partners, but a new partner, San Diego State University's, Field Station Program

Land Conservation

Mike Nelson stated that the 2007 Work Plan referenced six properties in the City reach One property owner he had spoken with appeared anxious to work with the Conservancy and that a closed session might be necessary at a future meeting.

White Donation:

Karen Scarborough asked for an update on what actually occurred regarding the White donation with the White property donation.

Karen Scarborough explained that the Public Works Board had delayed taking action due to liability issues associated with the donation and the executor's desire for the family to continue to have access to the property.

Both the Public Works Board and the Department of General Services had recommended that the Conservancy discuss limiting the duration of the property owner's access. That discussion was initiated, but was a nonstarter with estate's executor. Since then, the executor withdrew his offer to the Conservancy.

Andrew Poat asked whether there is another approach to preserving the property than a State acquisition.

Mike Nelson offered that in addition to conversations with SDSU about hydrology and invasive species, SDSU may have a research purpose for the White property.

He acknowledged that Michael Beck of the Endangered

Habitats League continued to have conversations with the executor and asked him discuss the current status of the donation. Michael Beck indicated that originally the property owner, before dying, wanted to quickly donate the property to the San Diego River Park Foundation, but the prospect of a time consuming and costly subdivision mapping exercise with San Diego County, prompted him to approach the Conservancy. Michael Beck continues to be in communication with the executor and will keep the Conservancy posted on any progress

Legislative Matters:

2007-2008 Budget

Mike Nelson informed that Board of two legislative matters. The first dealt with the fact that the Governor had included in his 2007-2008 budget a 3-year Capital Outlay for the Conservancy of \$15 million to be allocated within the Urban Greening Program of Proposition 84. He advised that hearings had been scheduled for the 7th and 12th of March and that he would discuss it further during Agenda Item 7, which dealt with the Conservancy's Operating Budget.

SB 419

Mike Nelson stated that Senator Kehoe has been considering legislation that would improve the Conservancy's operation and raise its profile, and serve as a precursor to legislation that would remove the 2010 sunset provision that exists in the enabling statute. He advised that Senator Kehoe had introduced AB419 as "spot" legislation as a placeholder should she decide to introduce more substantive provisions.

Chairperson Frye asked what was the deadline for introducing substantive changes to "spot" legislation.

Andrew Poat explained what a "spot" bill is. He said that generally the substance of the bill should be added by April 1 and final substantive changes by June. The bill would typically go to the Governor in September.

Vince Brown reminded the Board that this is a 2-year session so it could become a 2-year bill.

Chairperson Frye stated that in her capacity as a councilmember she would be supportive of anything that would lead to greater funding for the Conservancy.

Assembly Member Lori Saldana

Mike Nelson advised that he had met with Assembly Member Saldana, who had expressed keen interest in the progress and success of the Conservancy. Mike stated that she had expressed a willingness to help. Also she spoke about the SDRC's ½ mile from the main stem boundary, which led to a discussion of the growing interest by citizens in protecting the canyons throughout the region and particularly those that led to the San Diego River.

Chairperson Frye questioned whether the focus should be on the ½ mile or even a mile from the main thread rather than a broad based approach like watersheds that would mirror the Coastal Commission and Regional Board.

Chairperson Frye said she would pursue this issue with Assembly member Saldana because it would increase visibility and capture additional stakeholders.

Jim Peugh suggested that it consideration could be given to ½ mile around tributaries.

Karen Scarborough inquired about need for jurisdictional definition.

Deputy Attorney General Peterson stated that a jurisdictional definition is preferable and could be drafted more broadly, using examples of Coastal Conservancy and others.

Mike Nelson said that he would add Canyonlands to the next Board's next agenda.

San Joaquin and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Operations

The Board encouraged the Executive Officer at the previous board meeting to meet or interview Executive Officers from other Conservancies. Mike Nelson spoke with Melinda Marks at San Joaquin River Conservancy by phone, and met with the Executive Officer of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

Mike Nelson said that San Joaquin River Conservancy has a 22-mile parkway management plan that the jurisdictions within the parkway have adopted as part of their General Plans. The practical impact of this approach is that the jurisdictions must at least consider formally the River Parkway Management Plan when decisions are made at the beginning of a project rather than the end.

Coachella Mountains and Valley Conservancy initially received no state appropriation when it was created. One of the ways it met its operating costs was to prepare was to serve as a consultant to local governments the hired them to create a habitat conservation plan for Coachella Valley. The Conservancy also had to wrestle with jurisdictional issue. Its boundaries as originally enacted because it included the mountain tops, but not the valleys. The boundaries of the habitat management plan became eventually became the boundaries for the Conservancy's jurisdiction.

Both Executive Officers said they try to stay at arms length from the land use decision-making process and let the non-profit contest permits and project developments.

Both Conservancies, though they work with a number of NGOs have a primary non-profit that they utilize most often to accomplish their objectives.

Karen Scarborough suggested that the Executive Officer also meet with the Sierra Nevada, Lake Tahoe and perhaps the Baldwin Hills Conservancies.

Jim Peugh inquired whether San Joaquin had been successful with the parkway plan and whether the jurisdictions use it.

John Donnelly said that the jurisdictions are using it. He also said that the first thing they look at is whether the project is part of the master plan. The County and City of Fresno and the City and County of Madera have bought into the plan, so they are able to get projects through and support for projects in those jurisdictions. So, it works very well.

Jim Peugh asked whether Department of Fish & Game, the Fish & Wildlife services, and Corp of Engineers participated in its creation.

John Donnelly replied that Fish & Game participated, but was not sure whether it made permitting easier, but at least all parties are aware of it, and projects that are inconsistent have a more difficult time.

Mike Nelson noted that the San Joaquin Conservancy takes title to property through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), rather than the Public Works Board.

Karen Scarborough advised that this approach might be something to consider if legislation goes forward. It is because SDRC was connected to Coastal Conservancy that its acquisitions are reviewed

by the Public Works Board.

Hydrology Study

Michael McCann asked about the hydrology study and the Bureau of Reclamation. Mike Nelson stated that he had been in touch with the Bureau of Reclamation and they had met in San Diego to reactivate work on the Scope of the study and address the \$750,000 estimated cost. Though neither the Bureau nor SDRC had the sufficient funds to complete the study, both parties agreed that they had funds to begin the effort. SDRC expressed in the models ability to assist with location of restoration and recreational uses. SDRC asked the Bureau to revise the Scope of Work.

Mike Nelson also acknowledged that his predecessor had convened a meeting of stakeholders and that he would like to that group examine the revised Scope of Work before moving forward.

Mike Nelson said that his intentions was to ask Senator Boxer and Congresswoman Davis to consider a federal appropriation

Jim Peugh and Michael McCann would like to be involved with the hydrology study.

Chairperson Frye encouraged the Executive Officer to work with the Regional Water Quality Board because it has water quality monitoring reports available.

Jim Peugh and Chairperson Frye discussed the interrelationship between hydrology, water quality restoration and recreation. Jim Peugh is particularly concerned about the infrastructure near Interstate 5.

Chairperson Frye also mentioned that the City recently announced flood control planning and wondered whether there could be some coordination with the City that might benefit the SDRC study.

SDRC Message

Mike Nelson stated that he and Director Poat have discussed developing San Diego River Conservancy's message which defines the overarching purpose and mission and would develop a draft for the Board's consideration.

Chairperson Frye questioned the need to develop a message because she thought this was already captured in the 5-year Strategic Plan and suggested that Andrew Poat and Mike should first look at the Strategic Plan.

6. Deputy Attorney Generals Report

(No report)

Chairperson Frye asked when Statements of Economic Interest are due. Hayley Peterson stated that they are due this month. She said that she had met with Mike Nelson and suggested that a letter or e-mail be sent to Board members as a reminder that the forms should be submitted to the Executive Officer so the forms could be forwarded by to the Fair Political Practices Commission by the April 2, 2007.

7. Review Proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget

Mike Nelson advised that the 2007-2008 Budget was now before the California General Assembly, that in addition to an increase in operating funds from \$296,000 to \$449,000, the Governor's budget proposal included a \$13.7 million Capital Outlay from the Urban Greening Program to be funded by Proposition 84. Mike Nelson thanked Karen Scarborough for her efforts. She reminded him that the Governor and Secretary Chrisman deserved the credit for these substantial increases. He also remarked that within the Capital Outlay is an appropriation for staff.

Karen Scarborough stated that support from the Board, citizens and stakeholders was critical.

Chairperson Frye asked if it would be appropriate to send a letter from the Conservancy in support of the proposed budget.

Vince Brown and Karen Scarborough agreed and explained that typically stakeholders also send letters.

Chairperson Frye asked the Executive Officer to draft a letter that she could send.

Karen Scarborough stated it would be appropriate to mention that every Conservancy, but SDRC received a line item in Proposition 84 and that the proposed budget corrects this anomaly.

Andrew Poat pointed out that Prop 84 items are one time appropriations. He also asked about the increase from \$500,000 to \$2.745 million and who would do the work. The Executive Director responded that SDRC will spend the funds directly or pass them through to stakeholders.

Vince Brown explained that a detailed plan must be prepared before funds are spent. The Department of Finance will require front end accountability, as well as back end accountability through audits. If

voters are going to approve future bonds, previous appropriations must be utilized. The Executive Director interjected that a single potential acquisition could far exceed the amount available.

Andrew Poat asked whether the Executive Officer was confident that the Conservancy would have the capability to handle the expenditures. Mike Nelson responded affirmatively, especially since the Capital Outlay included funding for additional staff.

Ann Van Leer inquired whether the accountability requirement for Proposition 84 could utilize the existing 5-year plan. Would there be different plan requirements.

Vince Brown stated the accountability requirements would be different and insist on much greater detail. He referred to the Caltrans article in the Union Tribune about front, mid and post accountability.

Ann Miller Haddad sought clarification about the Conservancy's staffing and that the SDRC currently has 2 positions and Proposition 84 would fund a third.

Jim Peugh asked who the third person would be.

Mike Nelson stated that the position was a Program Analyst, Level II and that recruitment would follow existing State personnel hiring procedures.

Karen Scarborough moved to accept budget with comments and incorporate help from stakeholders to get letters out. Director Haddad seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Authorizing a River Parkways Grant for the Removal of Invasive Non Native Plants in the San Diego River

The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07 – 2 supporting an application by the San Diego River Conservancy or San Diego State University to the Resources Agency for a River Parkways Grant to fund the removal of invasive non-native plants from the San Diego River.

The Executive Director stated that the proposed Resolution is to allow the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) to move forward with a new partner, San Diego State University to remove invasive species in the headwaters of El Monte Valley. This project is found in both the Strategic and the Annual Work Plan. He stated that the Conservancy would like to begin the removal of invasive, non-native plants in headwaters of the River. He added that Ann Van Leer had made preliminary contacts with property owners in the area and that this action would allow SDRC to provide funds to San Diego State University (SDSU) to do the work.

Ann Van Leer stated that the properties are public owned, one by City of San Diego and one by Forest Service, totaling about 600 acres. The Forest Service land should be handled with an amendment to an earlier MOU. The City will need to secure the necessary approvals.

Mike Nelson introduced Matt Rahn, the Director of SDSU's Field Station Program. Matt stated that the Field Station Program was established in 1962 and currently comprises 4 properties: Mission Trails Park on Fortuna Mountain, Tijuana Estuary and two others, totaling approximately 10,000 acres. The purposes of the program are research, education, and outreach. They are trying to find local opportunities to bring SDSU and its students to the City, closer to campus, which makes the River ideal. This project would engage the Soil Ecology Restoration Group on campus. He stated that this project will be considered a research project.

Jim Peugh asked how much of the contract will be for mapping and how much for actual removal?

Ann Van Leer stated that the mapping would be for the two properties totaling roughly 600 acres at the base of the El Capitan dam.

Michael Beck He stated that a comprehensive plan is needed for the River; however as much as 80% of mapping had been accomplished.

Matt Rahn added that the University's interest is not just in the removal of invasives, but also in determining what is likely to happen in future. This would provide a type of early warning detection system after removal.

Andrew Poat asked that once the goal is accomplished, how do you maintain the results.

Anne Van Leer stated that we have proposed to the City that Proposition 40 would pay for conservation easement on City property, revenues that could become endowment for maintenance. Under Prop 40, property owner must agree to 25-year maintenance.

Vince Brown asked how much remains in Prop 40, and how much competition for the remainder?

Ann Van Leer stated that this amount is earmarked for SDRC. \$7 million had been allocated, \$5 million remaining. Of the \$5 million, about \$2 million already encumbered through resolution approved by the Board, these two items would obligate the remaining, \$3 million that is left.

Karen Scarborough asked whether the resolution should specify that it is the earmarked portions.

Ann Van Leer stated that this is the standard resolution the Conservancy has used working closely with Resources Agency

Ann Miller Haddad moved to adopt resolution, which was seconded by Andrew Poat. The motion was approved unanimously, with Karen Scarborough abstaining.

9. Authorizing a River Parkways Grant for the Hanson Pond Property Acquisition

The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07- 3 supporting an application by the San Diego River Conservancy or the Endangered Habitats Conservancy to the Resources Agency for a River Parkways Grant to provide funding for the acquisition of the Hanson Pond property.

The Executive Officer stated that this item as well as the previous item was would encumber all remaining funds available to the Conservancy. He emphasized that the work of San Diego River Park Foundation has been central to SDRC and that this resolution would provide assistance with the acquisition of the Hanson Pond, which will be a major restoration project.

Michael Beck stated that the El Monte Valley is approximately 7½ miles from the base of the dam to Wildcat Canyon Rd and that he has been working with the Helix Water District on the middle section. Hanson Pond is 145 acres, due west of Helix golf course footprint. Many partners are involved in the project and the negotiations with Hanson. He stated that he was looking to complete the approximately \$5.5 million acquisition this year. The Endangered Habitats League (EHL) will likely hold fee title. He stated that he had secured about \$2.5 million, but still needs \$3.5 million to finish. He remarked that the Coastal Conservancy is interested in helping, but not willing to donate more than the local conservancy.

Chairperson Frye asked how much funding is sought by this action. Mike Nelson responded that it will probably be about \$1 million, but will depend on negotiations with EHL.

Ann Van Leer stated that the resolutions historically have not had dollar amounts; however, by end of the month, the Executive Officer will need to allocate all funds.

Andrew Poat asked if we can include the language that has 'an amount up to'.

Ann Van Leer stated it that it had been the Conservancy's practice to allow the Executive Officer the flexibility to move funding among the

projects the Board had previously approved. Karen Scarborough stated that this practice may have been allowed for these previously allocated funds, but that this would not be the case for future funding.

Andrew Poat made a motion to adopt Resolution 07-3, amended to specify that the Executive Director is authorized to commit funds available in Prop 40 River Parkway Funds specifically set aside for the San Diego River for the purpose of accomplishing this resolution, but that grant totals would be approved for any new appropriations. It was seconded by Jim Peugh and passed unanimously with Karen Scarborough abstaining.

Ann Haddad and Andrew Poat moved and seconded a motion to amend Resolution 07-2 to be consistent with Karen Scarborough's statement regarding Board approvals of existing set asides, but requiring grant total for Board actions for any new funding the Conservancy should receive. It also was approved unanimously.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is May 11, 2007.

Accessibility

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Michael Nelson at 619-794-2038

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PURPOSE: Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority which is not on the agenda. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Presentation times may be reduced depending on the number of speakers.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **5**

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

PURPOSE: These items are for Board discussion only and the Board
will take no formal action.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**
The following topics may be included in the Executive Officers Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 18, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 419

Introduced by Senator Kehoe
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Saldana)

February 21, 2007

An act to amend ~~Section 32631~~ *Sections 32631, 32632, 32633, 32634, 32639, 32645, 32646, and 32661* of the Public Resources Code, relating to the San Diego River Conservancy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 419, as amended, Kehoe. San Diego River Conservancy.

Existing law authorizes the San Diego River Conservancy to acquire and manage certain public lands in the San Diego River Area. Existing law states that the San Diego River Parkway Coalition's Policy Committee and Citizen's Advisory Committee are developing a San Diego River Parkway Concept Plan and that it is the intent of the Legislature that the conservancy consider the recommendations in that concept plan when implementing the statutory provisions governing the San Diego River Conservancy.

This bill would revise those provisions to state that the ~~San Diego River Parkway Coalition's Policy Committee and Citizen's Advisory Committee have completed the San Diego River Parkway Concept Plan~~ *conservancy has developed a Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan that is consistent with the San Diego River Parkway Concept Plan and that it is the intent of the Legislature that the conservancy pursue the implementation of the Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan.*

The bill would revise the description of the San Diego River Area to include tributaries of the San Diego River and historic flumes emanation from the river, as well as certain other properties within the river's

watershed. The bill would also increase the membership of the conservancy from 9 to 10 voting members, by adding one member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, whose district includes the preponderance of the San Diego River watershed.

The bill would provide that the conservancy has no authority to levy a tax, regulate land use, or exercise the power of eminent domain. The bill would repeal language providing that an authorization to the conservancy to award grants would not become operative until the Legislature appropriates the necessary funds or until a bond act approved by the voters of the state includes an allocation for those purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 32631 of the Public Resources Code is
2 amended to read:

3 32631. (a) The San Diego River is a natural, historic, and
4 recreational resource in the heart of San Diego. From its headwaters
5 near the town of Julian in east San Diego County, it runs 52 miles
6 through Mission Valley *and the first settlement in California at*
7 *Old Town San Diego* before it empties into the Pacific at Ocean
8 Beach. The river has been subjected to intense development in
9 some parts; it runs through one of San Diego's most populated
10 neighborhoods and is in need of restoration, conservation, and
11 enhancement all along its length. The area presents excellent
12 opportunities for recreation, scientific research, *historic*
13 *preservation of the first aqueduct in the United States*, and
14 educational and cultural activities, of value to California and the
15 nation. *Reestablishing the cultural and historic connections*
16 *between the San Diego River, Old Town San Diego State Historic*
17 *Park, the Military Presidio, and the Kumeyaay Nation will provide*
18 *the public with the opportunity to appreciate the state's historic*
19 *beginnings.*

20 (b) Given the opportunities available, the state recognizes the
21 importance of holding this land in trust to be preserved and
22 enhanced for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

23 ~~(c) The San Diego River Parkway Coalition's Policy Committee~~
24 ~~and Citizen's Advisory Committee, representing diverse state and~~

1 local interests, have developed a San Diego River Parkway Concept
2 Plan that, in concept, outlines and provides a structural framework
3 for ideas for establishing a San Diego River Parkway Master Plan.
4 It is the intent of the Legislature that the San Diego River
5 Conservancy consider the recommendations in that concept plan
6 when implementing the provisions of this division.

7 *(c) The San Diego River Conservancy has developed a Five*
8 *Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan which has been endorsed*
9 *by its board of directors, as well as by the San Diego River*
10 *Parkway Coalition, representing diverse state and local interests.*
11 *The strategic plan is consistent with the San Diego River Parkway*
12 *Concept Plan and outlines and establishes four programmatic*
13 *areas: land conservation; recreation and education; natural and*
14 *cultural resources preservation and restoration; and, water quality*
15 *and natural flood conveyance. It is the intent of the Legislature*
16 *that the San Diego River Conservancy pursue the implementation*
17 *of the Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan when complying*
18 *with the provisions of this division.*

19 *SEC. 2. Section 32632 of the Public Resources Code is*
20 *amended to read:*

21 32632. For the purposes of this division, the following terms
22 have the following meanings:

23 (a) “Conservancy” means the San Diego River Conservancy
24 established by this division.

25 (b) “Fund” means the San Diego River Conservancy Fund
26 established pursuant to Section 32657.

27 (c) “Governing board” means the governing board of the
28 conservancy.

29 (d) “Local public agency” means a city, county, district, or joint
30 powers agency.

31 (e) “Nonprofit organization” means a private, nonprofit
32 organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section
33 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and that has
34 among its principal charitable purposes the preservation of land
35 for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic, or
36 open-space opportunities, the protection of the natural environment,
37 or preservation or enhancement of wildlife.

38 (f) “San Diego River Area” or “area” means those lands or other
39 areas that are donated to, or otherwise acquired by, or operated
40 by, the conservancy, which are located within one-half mile on

1 either side of the thread of the river *and its tributaries including*
2 *the historic flumes emanating from the river*; from its headwaters
3 near Julian to the Pacific Ocean at Dog Beach in San Diego, *and*
4 *other properties within the watershed of the San Diego River that*
5 *meet the intent of this division as approved on a case-by-case basis*
6 *by a two-thirds majority vote of the governing board.*

7 SEC. 3. Section 32633 of the Public Resources Code is
8 amended to read:

9 32633. There is in the Resources Agency, the San Diego River
10 Conservancy, which is created for the following purposes:

11 (a) To acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego
12 River Area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space,
13 wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland
14 protection and restoration, and protection~~and~~, maintenance *and*
15 *improvements* of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River
16 *and its watershed, its tributaries and historic flumes emanating*
17 *from the river* for all beneficial uses, lands for educational uses
18 within the area, and natural floodwater conveyance.

19 (b) To provide for the public's enjoyment, and to enhance the
20 recreational and educational experience *and historic interpretation*
21 on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the
22 protection of land and natural resources, as well as economic
23 resources, in the area.

24 SEC. 4. Section 32634 of the Public Resources Code is
25 amended to read:

26 32634. (a) The governing board of the conservancy shall
27 consist of ~~nine~~ 10 voting members and two nonvoting members.

28 (b) The voting members of the board shall consist of the
29 following:

30 (1) The Secretary of the Resources Agency, or his or her
31 designee.

32 (2) The Director of Finance, or his or her designee.

33 (3) Five members of the public at large, three of whom shall be
34 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by
35 the Senate Committee on Rules, and one of whom shall be
36 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

37 (4) The Mayor of San Diego.

38 (5) One member of the City Council of San Diego, elected by
39 a majority of the membership of the council.

1 (6) *One member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of*
2 *San Diego, whose district includes the preponderance of the San*
3 *Diego River watershed.*

4 (c) The two nonvoting members shall consist of the following:

5 (1) The Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board,
6 or his or her designee.

7 (2) A representative selected by the San Diego Regional Water
8 Quality Control Board.

9 (d) Two of the three initial appointments by the Governor
10 pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) shall be for three-year
11 terms and the third appointment shall be for a two-year term. All
12 subsequent appointments shall be for four-year terms.

13 (e) No person shall continue as a member of the governing board
14 if that person ceases to hold the office that qualifies that person
15 for membership. Upon the occurrence of those events, the person's
16 membership on the governing board shall automatically terminate.

17 *SEC. 5. Section 32639 of the Public Resources Code is*
18 *amended to read:*

19 32639. The conservancy shall establish and maintain an office
20 within the area. The conservancy may rent or own real and personal
21 property and equipment pursuant to applicable statutes and
22 regulations. *The conservancy may not levy a tax or regulate land*
23 *use.*

24 *SEC. 6. Section 32645 of the Public Resources Code is*
25 *amended to read:*

26 32645. The conservancy may take any of the following actions
27 for the purposes of this division:

28 (a) Select and acquire real property or interests in real property
29 in the name of the state pursuant to the Property Acquisition Law
30 (Part 11 (commencing with Section 15850) of Division 3 of Title
31 2 of the Government Code).

32 (b) Acquire interests in land by various means, including, but
33 not limited to, land exchanges, easements, development rights, life
34 estates, leases, and leaseback agreements.

35 (c) Accept and hold real property or an interest in real property
36 that is acquired through gift, exchange, donation, or dedication.

37 (d) *Local public agencies shall retain exclusive authority over*
38 *all zoning or land use regulations within their jurisdiction.*

39 *SEC. 7. Section 32646 of the Public Resources Code is*
40 *amended to read:*

1 32646. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
2 conservancy has the first right of refusal to acquire any public
3 lands that are suitable for park and open space within the
4 conservancy's jurisdiction when those lands become available.
5 *The conservancy may not exercise the power of eminent domain.*

6 SEC. 8. *Section 32661 of the Public Resources Code is*
7 *amended to read:*

8 ~~32661. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this~~
9 ~~division, Sections 32635, 32639, 32641, 32643, 32645, 32646,~~
10 ~~32647, 32648, 32649, 32650, 32651, 32654, 32655, 32656, and~~
11 ~~32658 shall not become operative until the Legislature appropriates~~
12 ~~funds necessary to implement this division, or until a bond act~~
13 ~~approved by the voters of this state includes an allocation of funds~~
14 ~~for the purposes of this division.~~

15 ~~(b)~~

16 32661. This division shall remain in effect only until January
17 1, 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted
18 statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends
19 that date.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**
This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will
take no formal action. (*Hayley Peterson*)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **Canyonlands – Presentation**

Canyonlands

The Creation of a San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park

A White Paper prepared by:

San Diego Civic Solutions



March 15, 2006



Who is San Diego Civic Solutions?

We are a group of leaders, some emerging, some proven over the years, but representing all walks of life. We are occupied with the region's imperfections while we invent approaches that can evolve into solutions.

We pay attention to the balance between Mothers' Children and Mother's Nature, for the environment is part of our sensitivity and forms our quality-of-lives. We mean to preserve what arouses our souls and correct what past leadership has ignored.

Imperfection is good, for it proves that we are human when our vanity creates the illusion that "we are the best". We cannot be our best until we have worked at making certain that we know what that means. Sensitivity means that we love what Nature has blessed us with and no matter how beautiful, we exist to leave it a better place than we found it.

Humans are not in love with status quo otherwise we would have no man-made wonders: shelters, deepened harbors, sanctuaries, islands, bridges to meld with superb sunsets, flowers, trees and the other blessings we love.

SD Civic Solutions is the joining together of fine people seeking excellent choices through inspiring thought and leadership. We are pragmatic, working with exceptional vision, clearing up the myopia of inaction.

Sanford Goodkin

The San Diego Civic Solutions Canyonlands Subcommittee

Vicki Estrada
Andy Spurlock
Eric Bowlby
Michael Stepner
Mary M. McLellan
George Gastil

Sandy Goodkin
Howard Blackson III
Jesse Votaw
Janet Fairbanks
Nancy Hughes

White Paper Contents

1. *Introduction*
2. *Background*
3. *Past and Current Studies and Ideas*
4. *Guiding Values*
5. *Threats to our Values*
6. *Possible Ideas and Guidelines*
7. *How to create a Canyonlands park*
8. *Next Steps*

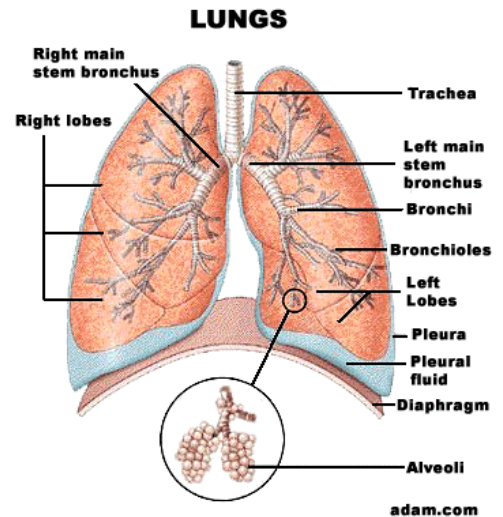
1. Introduction

We search for meaning to our lives. Is there meaning to a city? Our city has great climate and beauty, in spite of low annual rainfall. The natural infrastructure of our place—the fundamental beauty—if not the uniqueness that makes San Diego special, are the canyons that connect all neighborhoods. We have significant quantity of these wonderful natural places; the question is, do we love them enough, do we appreciate them enough to sustain their presence.

As a City and region we have chosen to live in a landscape of incredible but not indelible beauty: the canyons, mesas, mountains and ocean that define us as a place. It is a landscape that is a critical part of the **quality of life** that has attracted many of us to live here—and it will become increasingly important to our economy and maintaining a sense of ourselves by retaining and building on our sense of place.

This white paper is meant to bring collective comprehension to Canyonlands, by appreciating them and by identifying solutions to problems that threaten to destroy them. This paper presents political and ethical reasons and facts that will make our entire region a better habitat. We do not have to physically destroy a place to bring it down. We do worse, when we continue to ignore the reality of what is happening, just as good citizens do nothing to proactively prevent the erosion of the beauty that is ours alone, to protect and enhance.

The idea of Canyonlands is to create a **visionary open space park** that will create a framework for our region.



An image of our lungs



An image of Mission Valley

Our canyons bring us nourishment, maintain our health, and ventilate our lives. They are our lungs and bronchial tubes.

This park will be a system of natural and urban spaces and connections incorporating the canyons, coastline and mountains that define our communities and their setting. It will include connections and windows to the canyons. It will be green infrastructure for the future - a necessity, not a luxury.

2. Background

Across the United States, the interest in and desire for a sustainable environment continues to grow. This interest has many names. Smart Growth, Livable Neighborhoods, Sustainable Design, New Urbanism, and Landscape Urbanism. All have the identifier “Green”. Green Urbanism and Landscape Urbanism focus on urban ecology, open space, and natural systems as the definer of urban form.

Author Richard Louv, in his book ***Last Child in the Woods***, wrote, “... According to current ecological theory, preserving islands of wild land -- parks and preserves -- in urban areas is not enough. Instead, a healthy urban environment requires natural corridors for movement and genetic diversity. What if such theory were applied to an entire urban region? What if natural corridors for wildlife extended deep into urban territory and urban psyche and thereby created an entirely different environment in which children would grow up and adults could grow old?”

Louv writes that as long as our canyons are seen as separate, isolated patches of land, their destruction will continue. As developable land on the outskirts of the region’s cities disappears, pressure will necessarily build to increase the density of our neighborhoods. This, in turn, will accelerate the impulse to develop chunks of canyon land. The political protection of these canyons depends on our ability to see each as part of a single, named, public resource.

The canyonlands effort proposes policies and guidelines that will show how to bring the canyons into our neighborhoods -- to have our canyons and hillsides shape the form of our neighborhoods. A recent informal survey conducted by San Diego Civic Solutions asked the question, “*What do you love about San Diego?*” Consistently ranked in the top five were our environment, our climate, our neighborhoods, and our love of the topography and geography of our community -- the canyons and hillsides.



Our canyons help define us

This feeling about the physical form of the city is not new. It can be seen from the various planning studies described elsewhere in this paper that the importance of the natural form of the city always has been the framework for the built form of San Diego. Architect James Hubbell, writing about Balboa Park, said, “Instead of worrying about encroaching on Balboa Park, we should encourage Balboa Park to encroach on the rest of the region so that we become an extension of the Park.”

The same approach should be applied to our canyons and hillsides. Lynch and Appleyard, in their groundbreaking study, *Temporary Paradise?*, recommended that, where possible, the natural environment of the canyons should be extended into the adjacent neighborhoods. Richard Louv has suggested the creation of a San Diego urban canyonlands park would contribute to a new sense of the public space.

The links in such a park system would be through neighborhoods, bringing the benefits of the green infrastructure into our communities and creating that all-important tie of people to the natural environment resulting in more healthy communities.

The San Diego Canyons campaign has resulted in the Friends of the Canyons’ movement, sponsored by the San Diego Sierra Club. It has been bringing residents together to become advocates for the canyons in their neighborhoods. A map developed by this group shown to the right indicates the level of commitment to the region to date.

This is the time to create the Canyonlands Park. We have experienced unprecedented growth over the past fifty years, and whether that growth continues or not, we will not have another opportunity to create a *coherent open space framework* for the region. The idea of Canyonlands is not to compete with all of our other planning and visioning efforts, but to be an integral part of them. For example, It can build on the urban villages concept by giving it three legs.

1. Communities: Focus growth to communities and away from *Canyonlands*
2. Infrastructure: Support communities and *Canyonlands* with green infrastructure
3. Environment: Create the Canyonlands Park as a life giving framework for our region and communities



A map created by “Friends of the Canyons” indicating which canyons have established groups



A design charrette held by Civic Solutions beginning the discussion of the Canyonlands effort



The City of Villages Map

We believe that protecting and connecting our canyons is one of the fundamental aspects of a coherent vision for the future of this region. Many efforts are underway to implement this vision from different organizations, government entities and points of view.

A great opportunity now exists to bring this effort together, both as a community movement and a physical structure for our region and for our local neighborhoods. This includes incorporating and facilitating the work of many groups with similar goals as well as identifying common ground and interests of groups with differing goals.

- Increase awareness of the benefits and opportunities of the Canyons
- Articulate and quantify the relationships between the economy, quality of life and the Canyons
- Continue to define and refine the vision of Canyonlands
- Fund and implement open space acquisition and maintenance
- Fund and implement connections to and between the canyons
- Provide support for local efforts concerning the Canyons
- Foster communication and support between Canyon related efforts at all levels



Children learning about our canyons



Removing invasive plants in a canyon



Wildlife in Florida Canyon

*Photos by Pam Hayhurst, Sierra Club,
San Diego Canyon Campaign
Photographer*

3. Past and Current Studies and Ideas

There have been many past studies and work efforts that elaborate on the importance of Canyons to the San Diego region. Highlights of each as they pertain to Canyonlands are included below.

The Nolen Plan (1908) In Nolen's view, the city needed a plan that would provide the impetus for "a great system of parks well connected by boulevards," a plaza to serve as a centerpiece for well-designed public buildings and a "broad esplanade" on the waterfront. He offered specific recommendations, including preservation of beaches and other open space for the public. Key concepts included:

1. Conform to topography
2. Use places for what they are naturally most fit
3. Conserve, develop and utilize all natural resources
4. Aim to secure beauty by organic arrangements rather than by mere embellishment or adornment

Temporary Paradise? (1974) It bears some striking parallels to the first Nolen plan. Both advocated city plans that preserve the beaches, valleys, canyons, bays and other natural resources for all San Diegans. *Temporary Paradise?* was among the first reports to view Tijuana as part of the San Diego region.

Alternative Futures for San Diego (1987) The City Council authorized an updating of the city's growth management program and General Plan review. Canyons, river valleys and lagoons would be preserved, the air and water would be clean, and environmentally sound.

Towards Permanent Paradise (1995) -- Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 has begun a campaign to revive the main visions and ideas contained in the 1974 report, *Temporary Paradise?* The C-3 project aims to develop an implementation plan for the principles. "This strategy will include principles and public policy recommendations that strike an effective balance between the built and the natural environment".

San Diego Grand Design (Citylinks) -- (1997) The Citylinks document explores a vision of San Diego in which an open space system connects San Diego's communities. Intended as an educational tool rather than an action plan, the report offers a framework to help guide the community



Part of the Nolen Plan



Temporary Paradise?



Towards Permanent Paradise



***San Diego Grand Design
(Citylinks)***

planning process. "The existing parks, accessible open spaces and dedicated bike routes form the beginning of such a system but are neither complete, nor evenly distributed through the city." The report proposes a system that uses natural features as landmarks for navigating around the functional part of the city. Valleys, for instance, would form a web connecting communities.

4. Guiding Values

Our major guiding values are listed below and discussed in more detail following the list. Our canyons can provide:

- **Passive Recreation needs**
- **Visual, Psychological & Physical Relief**
- **Educational Opportunities**
- **Habitat/Wildlife Conservation Areas**
- **Ecotourism benefits**
- **Water Quality Benefits**
- **Community character and edges**
- **Pedestrian Links and Connections**

Passive Recreational Values

Canyons should be preserved and enhanced where appropriate. Some canyons, that are particularly important for species conservation, should be preserved for wildlife observation/study and human impacts should be minimized/reduced. Access improvements that increase human activity, while desirable in many canyons, should strive to protect the natural resource values.



Scenic Local Canyons



Joggers in Tecolote Canyon

Visual, Psychological and Physical Relief

San Diego's Canyons are an escape to nature from an otherwise completely paved and urbanized environment. This visual treat helps soothe the mind and relieves the stress of modern living with its fast pace and information overload. Singing birds, buzzing bees and the cry of soaring hawks replaces the noise of traffic. The aroma of sage brush, twittering birds, flowering plants, butterflies, and wildlife welcome the senses and curious eyes of urban dwellers. The natural aesthetics of the canyons should be preserved and enhanced.

Educational Opportunities

Canyons should be preserved and opportunities utilized. Studies have shown that our children learn better in a natural setting than within the walls of a classroom. Like our schools, the canyons are scattered throughout the city providing nearby opportunities for schools to establish a nature-classroom program. There is so much for our urban youth to learn from the canyons themselves including: human and natural history, biology and the study of our many endangered and threatened species, archeology/paleontology, geology and the emerging science of watershed management. The canyons are a classroom for water quality monitoring and testing and solution-oriented study. Schools could establish native plant gardens to assist with canyon restoration projects.

Habitat/Wildlife Conservation Areas

Our county has more endangered and threatened species than any other county on the continental USA. Many of our endangered habitats, on which many species depend for survival, are found in the canyons such as the riparian woodlands (wetlands) that follow the streams through our canyons. Our MHCP calls for protection of wetlands both inside and outside of preserve areas. Some canyons serve as important wildlife corridors for habitat area connectivity, and others are important stop-over locations for mobile and migrating species. The wildlife values of our canyons should be preserved and enhanced.



Scenic Local Canyon



**Children learning about
canyons**



**Habitat/Wildlife
Conservation**

Ecotourism benefits

Tourists visit San Diego to enjoy our climate, our beaches, our attractions, attend cultural events and to visit Mexico. Our canyons are one of the causes of our uniqueness. If they are allowed to deteriorate, we will begin to deteriorate, our beaches will deteriorate and we will become like anywhere else. We can develop our canyons as examples of how humankind can successfully integrate with nature. They could themselves, become attractions.

Water Quality Benefits

Our polluted urban runoff is a growing problem with several days of beach closures after every rain. Canyon vegetation can absorb, filter, and breakdown pollutants from urban storm-water runoff. This natural capability should be protected and restored. Urban storm-water runoff that is being funneled into canyons from our streets is increasing the erosion of the streams and canyon slopes and thus increasing sedimentation pollution to our coastal waters. Urban redevelopment should seek innovative ways to reduce the flow of runoff into the canyons.

Community Character and edges

Can you imagine what Clairemont would look like without our canyons? Each neighborhood would run together and there would be no distinction between neighborhoods. The canyons are the single most important reason that our neighborhoods have a unique character. Another important function of our canyons is the way that they act as edges to communities and neighborhoods. How we treat and value these canyon edges is as important as the canyons themselves. It will not be sufficient to simply preserve these canyons. Each canyon edge needs to be treated with the sensitivity of a waters edge. If all edges are blocked from access and public view, then the canyon will not benefit the adjacent community. Careful consideration should be given to the type (mass, scale, setback) and proximity of development adjacent to the canyons. Several canyons have already been developed with homes and roads. However, their topographic integrity and spatial importance remains. These urbanized canyons should not be ignored as irrelevant. They need to be considered as valuable both from a spatial and natural aspect. They still function as important visual relief valves.



Looking North from Mexico



Canyons provide places to cleanse water



Canyons give us character

Pedestrian Links and Connections

Although visual access is important, occasional physical public access points need to be provided along canyon edges. There are many examples where homes and lots completely surround a canyon and if you do not happen to live along a canyon's edge, you do not know it is there.

5. Threats to our Values

San Diego's precious canyons face a variety of threats that if left unchecked, will greatly diminish the many benefits that they provide. **Perhaps the urgency to act stems more from our increased understanding of canyon values** than from the myriad of things that impact the canyons on a daily basis. For example, we have learned that access to nature is very important toward our mental and physical health. Children that have access to nature are less prone to Hyperactive Attention Deficit Disorders (HADD) and depression. We have learned that the water filtration benefits of canyon habitats could play a key role in cleaning up our coastal storm-water pollution problems.]

Urban Encroachment

There are a number of threats resulting from growth and urban development including:

- encroachment from new housing, businesses, schools, etc.;
- channelization of creeks and natural drainage systems, (-cutting off the water filtration benefits);
- expansion of utilities into canyons, (water, sewer and power lines), including access roads for utility maintenance and infrastructure such as new roads and bridges;
- increased development density is increasing human demand and unmanaged use of open space areas - resulting in habitat impacts. Infrastructure, parks, and funding for open space maintenance is languishing behind the dense housing development.
- **Erosion of creek beds and the floors of our canyons increases** as development reduces the



Homes surrounding a canyon



Development encroaching down a canyon



Channelized Chollas Creek



Utilities in Canyon

amount of permeable surfaces in our city and storm-water runoff is funneled into the canyons in ever greater volumes and velocities. Many canyon floors have been scoured clean of soils and vegetation leaving a wide swath of cobble stone where thick layers of fertile sediment once existed.

- **Invasive plant species** is arguably the number one threat to natural canyon habitats. A City Parks and Open Space memo regarding an invasive plant species policy states: ***“We are experiencing an invasion of non-native plants in over 70% of our 24,000+ acres of open space, which crowd out native plants and reduce the quality of habitats.”*** (Jan., 2006). These highly problematic non-native plants include: pampas grass, tamarisk, mustard, arundo, castor bean and ice plant. Iceplant will consume entire hillsides. It is often planted on steep slopes to reduce fire risk and prevent erosion however when it gets heavy during the rains it often slides in giant masses down the slopes dragging the top soils with it and leaving the hillside exposed and subject to massive erosion.
- **Poor brush management practices** have increased since the fires in October 2003. Clearing of native plants creates a highway for non-native weeds. Many weeds die and dry up every year increasing the risk of flash fires.
- **Sale of publicly owned land** is being considered to help with governmental budget problems.
- **Trash is being dumped into canyons** including large items like mattresses and tires. Trash accumulation fosters bacterial pollution eventually fouling our waterways and beaches.
- **Encampments by homeless people** in our canyons results in human waste and trash problems and increases risk of fire and makes safe public use questionable.



Creek Erosion



Arundo in Canyon



Canyon Trash Cleanup



Ice Plant for Brush Management

7. Possible Ideas and Guidelines

Following are some ideas developed that illustrate how our guiding values could be incorporated into a grand design for our region. The first section elaborates on some basic overall design ideas. Three specific sub-regions were then chosen as focus areas. Clairemont, Encinitas and Mid-City San Diego.

Overall Guidelines

Create public views into canyons.



Canyons create breathing room for communities.



Create trails and access in some areas.



Manage and control infrastructure access and use of canyons.



Control runoff to limit erosion.



Connect natural but developed parks with canyons.



Protect and limit access to habitat areas.



Mark canyons windows and trailheads.



Limit encroachment onto slopes into canyons.



Discourage walls of development over canyons.



Canyonlands



Arterial Streets like Encinitas Boulevard can be Important Canyon Connections



El Camino Real is a Historic Setting and Scenic Park Drive



The Canyon Crossings of Interstate 5 at the Estuaries Create Gateways to Communities



San Dieguito River Valley still Creates a Natural Gateway to the City of San Diego



Limit Visual Clutter in the Park at the Canyon Crossings

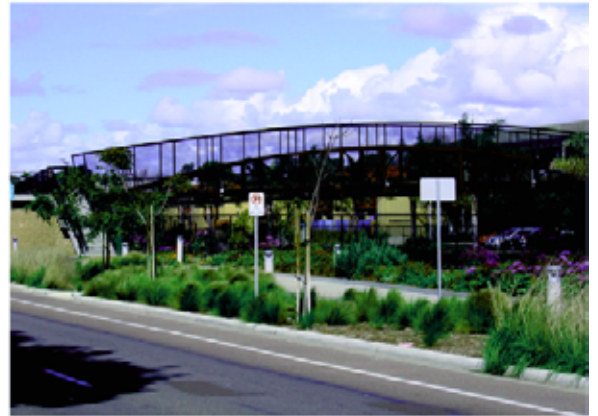


Work Harder at Protecting Canyonlands Topography

Canyonlands



Connect Canyons to Communities but devfine Edges and Entriews



Connect and Incorporate Infrastructure with Carefully designed Engineering



Create Trail Connections through Communities with New Greenways



Incorporate Green Infrastructure like Permeable Paving



Restore Natural Drainageways like Cottonwood Park in Encinitas



Maximize Opportunities for Interpretation and Education

MID CENTURY SUBURBS: CLAIREMONT SQUARE

CANYONS DEFINE COMMUNITIES

Canyons still define edges of communities. Schools and recreation areas were placed on canyons, but homes wall the canyons from public view.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Control further encroachment of homes onto slopes, encourage protection of resources on private lots.

- Extend natural areas into schools and parks.
- Clarify hillside review.
- Preserve, restore, connect habitat.
- Protect sensitive areas



INFRASTRUCTURE

Connect through and to public facilities and urban centers- like Clairemont Square. Create green framework. Relocate residential to urban center.

urban nodes
green nodes



OPEN SPACE RECREATION

Connect trails and open spaces with canyons.

- Create view windows- pocket parks
- Open trails at street connections

green nodes





View of Clairemont Square indicating possible links and relationships to surrounding canyons



The street could be narrowed and canyon vegetation could be extended into the neighborhood creating a connection from the Shopping Center to the canyon.

OUTLYING TOWNS: ENCINITAS

CANYONS DEFINE COMMUNITIES

Many original towns in the county are centered on canyons that open to the beach or provide highway or train access.

- They are also often defined at their edges by lagoons or canyon systems but have started to develop more intensely at the edges.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Protect the Escondido Creek and San Elijo corridor but also secondary resources such as the slopes and habitat along Encinitas Blvd., Pacific Coast Hwy, and El Camino Real.

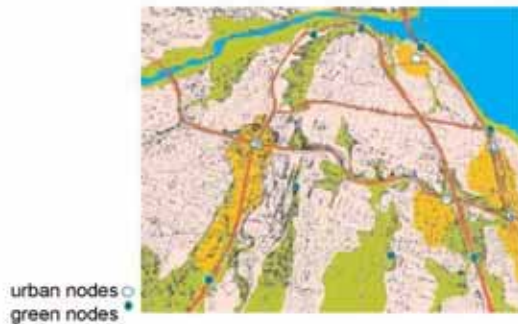
- Limit encroachment.
- Take advantage of MHCP program



INFRASTRUCTURE

Work on freeway runoff, roadway corridors – part of green framework: Moonlight Beach, Crossing at El Camino Real and Encinitas Blvd.

- Nodes not sprawl.



RECREATION

Scenic corridors, connect parks, river corridors, crossing points.

- LUX Art Center
- College campus as overlook
- Quail, Ecke Properties, schools



CENTRAL AREA: MID CITY



CANYONS DEFINE COMMUNITIES

Mid City is defined by its canyons and Balboa Park. Relationships to open space and infrastructure can be improved to create a natural framework.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Continue to protect and connect resources in the canyons from habitat, water quality, scenic value, and a sense of identity of communities.

- Restoration
- Infiltration areas
- Resource management
- Interpretation
- Activism
- Preserves

INFRASTRUCTURE

Rethink infrastructure as part of green infrastructure intensify existing woods rather than develop more in canyons.

- Roads/ Freeways
- Sewers & Drainage
- Urban connection to Balboa
- Transit
- Power canyons
- Link to urban nodes
- Density transfer



RECREATION

Connect parks with canyons and other open space.

- Overlooks
- Trails
- Greenways
- Trailheads
- Urban trails
- Bikeways



7. How to Create a Canyonlands Park

Implementing the Canyonlands Park will include regional policies, local initiative and neighborhood community action. The ideas are already occurring in parts and pieces at each of these levels. The Park will bring these efforts together, provide coordination and mutual support.

Regional:

- Smart Growth Planning: Adopt the Canyonlands Park. Refine the vision for the Park and our communities. Identify resource, economic and community opportunities related to the Park.
- Green Transportation and Infrastructure planning: Create a green region and maximize the sustainability of the environment and communities.
- Open Space Planning: Coordinate efforts and program for resource, economic and recreational use of major open spaces.
- Resource Protection: Continue and coordinate Species Conservation programs
- Water Quality: Coordinate standards and watershed-wide planning of the Park drainage sheds and their effect on oceans.
- Visual Resource Protection: Create and coordinate new scenic resource guidelines
- Interagency Coordination between General Plans
- Connect costal commission with National Forest and River Park planning
- Cross-Border Planning from Pendleton to Ensenada
- Regional Organization Coordination: (Sierra Club, Native Plant Society)

Local:

- Smart Growth Planning (Cities, County, Baja—"urban villages", etc).—Adopt the Canyonlands Park. Identify Park opportunities. Create guidelines for protection of canyons, development in canyons and connection with communities and parks.
- Green Infrastructure Planning: Manage and control infrastructure access and use of canyons, what happens to roads, transit, sewers and so forth in canyons.
- Open Space Planning: Create breathing room for communities in addition to recreation parks and habitat preserves. Create management systems: for example Park Rangers.
- Community Plan Coordination: Review relationships between adjacent community plans to connect trails, preserve separating open space, etc.
- Funding and Implementation: Coordinate efforts between groups and agencies to identify and maximize leverage of funding.
- Coordination of Community Efforts: (Provide assistance to Canyoneers, neighborhood canyon groups, park foundations and committees)

Neighborhood:

- Community Involvement: Implement the Canyonlands Park. Involve and energize neighborhoods around their canyons through Sierra Club, Education organizations, other environmental initiatives
- Open Windows:
- Create Links
- Create Uses
- Provide Interpretation and Education

- Discourage development and abuse of canyons
- Provide oversight of safety, fire and security

8. Next Steps

Where do we go from here? If this white paper is to be a catalyst for positive change in our quality of life, rather than just another intellectual exercise, we must immediately decide on and take the next steps. Following are some suggested courses of action that can be taken individually or in concert:

Educate

Encourage schools and teachers to include nearby canyons as an integral part of their science based curriculum. The canyons are living, breathing ecosystems providing opportunities for nearby schools to educate their students in science-based disciplines such as ecology, geography, natural/human history, paleontology, watersheds and water quality. These nature-classrooms are a perfect way to augment the teaching of science.

Promote

Broaden the constituency for canyon preservation by raising awareness regarding the essential quality of life benefits derived from canyons. A good starting point is to organize speaking tours with residents and community planning groups throughout San Diego. With respect to groups representing different priorities, it is necessary to identify common ground and interests in order to build broad coalitions. This will involve articulating and quantifying relationships between the economy, quality of life, and the canyons.

Provide

Provide access for the public. Access begins at the interface between the built/natural environments. Interface designs include providing physical access such as trailhead kiosks and trail improvements, and providing visual access such as pocket-park overlooks with interpretive signage. Urban approaches to the canyon could have transition areas where native plant landscaping leads to the trailhead giving the feeling that the canyon reaches into the community center. Each community has a role to play in helping to create appropriate design criteria for access, and for maintenance of habitat values for their canyons.

Cooperate

Develop a system of interagency public/private cooperation for oversight. The effectiveness of the canyonlands effort will increase exponentially based on the level of cooperation between various private, community, and governmental groups.

Maintain

Provide support for local stewardship efforts by funding or establishing volunteer based management programs addressing such things as brush management, fire risk control, illegal dumping, and homeless encampments.

Mitigate

Mitigate environmental degradation to our canyons by developing a sustainability program to reduce polluted runoff, hillside and streambed erosion, and to increase water availability. Examples include water-retention designs that capture storm water in cisterns, grassy swales, or on-site riparian areas.

Fund

Develop innovative funding strategies to carry out the vision of canyonlands. The funding mechanisms for built infrastructure need to include the natural infrastructure of our urban environment. Examples include utilizing the Environmental Growth Fund (established utility assessment fees), tax-increment financing, developer impact/in-lieu fees, fee waiver incentives, real estate excise or transfer taxes, and assessment districts.

Grant writing for municipal, state, federal, and nonprofit grants, and private capital campaigns are other examples of funding strategies. For canyons not already in the public realm, incentives could be offered such as tax relief for property owners that provide conservation and public access easements. Transfer Development Rights (TDR) is a way of diverting development away from areas that are important to a community to more agreeable areas for development.

Build

Build a model that incorporates as many of the afore-mentioned Next Steps as possible while adhering to the guiding principles outlined in this paper. An urban redevelopment project adjacent to a canyon presents an excellent opportunity for building such a model. Development and infrastructure (in this case green infrastructure) are like peas and carrots –they go hand in hand. A private/public partnership can not only gather resources more effectively, but also expand the pie of benefits that accrue to the developer, the canyon, and the community. It is with this thought that we propose that the community, public agencies, and design and development professionals put forth a development plan to bring into the community the natural infrastructure that makes San Diego so unique- the canyons.

"According to current ecological theory, preserving islands of wild land (parks and preserves) in urban areas is not enough. Instead, a healthy urban environment requires natural corridors for movement and genetic diversity.

What if such a theory were applied to an entire urban region?

What if natural corridors for wildlife extended deep into urban territory and urban psyche and thereby created an entirely different environment in which children would grow up and adults could grow old?"

Richard Louv, from his book "Last Child in the Woods"

**For further information contact:
<http://www.sdcivicsolutions.com/>**



Canyonlands

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **Review Proposition 13 and 40 Grants – Financial
Report**

San Diego River Conservancy Proposition 13 and 40 Status Report as of 4/23/07

Funding	Project	Grantee	Amount	Status
Prop 13	CALMAT acquisition	Lakeside RPC	\$2,000,000	Completed ¹
Prop 40	CALMAT acquisition	Lakeside RPC	\$2,200,000	Completed
Prop 40	Ocean Beach Bike Path	City of San Diego	\$2,000,000	Project underway ²
Prop 40	Mission Valley Preserve	City of San Diego	\$500,000	Project underway
Prop 40	Eagle Peak Preserve (#1)	SDRPF	\$175,000	Completed
Prop 40	Lakeside River Park Trail	Lakeside RPC	\$203,000	Project underway
Prop 40	San Diego River Gorge Phase 1	SDRC	\$127,204	Project underway
Prop 40	San Diego River Gorge Phase 2	Ramona Trails Assoc.	\$250,000	Project ready to submit ³
Prop 40	Eagle Peak Phase 3	SDRPF	\$527,000	Project ready to submit
Prop 40	El Monte Flume Properties	SDRC	\$1,000,000	Project ready to submit
Prop 40	Hanson Pond acquisition	EHC	\$1,521,000	Project ready to submit
Prop 40	Invasive Exotic Mapping and Removal	SDSU/SDRC	\$1,496,796	Project ready to submit
Total			\$12,000,000.00	

¹ "Completed" means acquisition closed.

² "Project Underway" means the SDRC Governing Board has approved the project, the Resources Agency has approved the grant agreement and work has begun.

³ "Project ready to submit" means the SDRC Governing Board has approved the project and the applicant and the grant is in final refinement before submittal to the Resources Agency.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 11, 2007

ITEM: **10**

SUBJECT: **Event Marketing/Public Out Reach**